



REMARKS

Claims 3, 5-10, 12, 14, 21-23, 25 and 26 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claim 6 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error, changing "(IIIA)" to "(IIA)". Claim 7 has been amended to remove the term 'preferably', accordingly new claim 27 has been added directed to this subject matter. Claim 7 has also been amended to clarify the description of the variables in structure IIIC. No new matter has been added.

The present invention is directed to the discovery that one or more wall-modifying compounds (termed "surface-modifying agents") can, by virtue of reaction with the wall-forming materials, be incorporated in the microcapsule wall to create a modified microcapsule surface with built-in surfactant and/or colloid stabilizing properties

Claims 7, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite.

The Examiner states that claim 7 contains a broad recitation and a narrower limitation. Claim 7 has been amended to remove the term "preferably" and new claim 27 has been added directed to this subject matter. Applicants submit that the present amendment overcomes this rejection.

Applicants are unclear what rejection, if any, the Examiner is making against claims 14 and 15. Clarification is requested.

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner states that "Claim 1 is indefinite because it is not clear if the surface modifying compound is the polymer resin or the surface modifying compound is part of a different polymer resin. Clarification is required."

The surface modifying compound is incorporated in (i.e., becomes part of) the polymer resin which forms the microcapsule wall. The surface modifying compound is not itself a polymer resin. The surface modifying compound is incorporated into the polymer resin by reaction of the functional moiety -X with a wall-forming material (i.e., a precursor of the polymer resin).

Claims 5-14, 21, 25 and 26 have been objected to as being in improper form.


Applicants have amended the claims herein to remove the multiple dependencies.

In view of the above amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been overcome and hereby request that this application be passed to issue.

Originally, fees were paid for a total of 26 claims. As this response includes one (1) new claim bringing the total number of claims to 27, the Commissioner is authorized to debit the appropriate fee for that additional claim, or any other fee, from the deposit account of the undersigned, no 50-1676 in the name of Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

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